

# National Quality Standard

The National Quality Standard (NQS) sets a benchmark for the quality of all education and care services across Australia.

The NQS is made up of seven quality areas.

Services are assessed and rated by their regulatory authority to determine the level of quality.

## seven quality areas

1 Educational program and practice

2 Children's health and safety

3 Physical environment

4 Staffing arrangements

5 Relationships with children

6 Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

7 Governance and leadership

## quality ratings

Service promotes **exceptional** education and care, demonstrates sector leadership, and is committed to continually improving.

Rated  
**EXCELLENT**  
by ACECQA



Service **goes beyond** the requirements of the National Quality Standard in at least four of the seven quality areas.

RATED  
**EXCEEDING**  
NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD



Service **meets** the National Quality Standard. Service provides quality education and care in all seven quality areas.

RATED  
**MEETING**  
NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD



Service provides a **safe** education and care program, but there are one or more areas identified for improvement.

RATED  
**WORKING TOWARDS**  
NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD



There is an identified significant risk to the safety, health and wellbeing of children. Immediate action will be taken to address issues.

**SIGNIFICANT  
IMPROVEMENT  
REQUIRED**